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CIA LINKED WITH PLANNING DEFECTION AND ASSASSINATIONS OF IRAQI PILOTS

An article by V. Gavrilov entitled "Haven't There Been Too Many 'Accidents'?" in Literaturnaya Gazeta, 5 December 1966, referred to a recent article in the Baghdad newspaper al-Nasir concerning the circumstances surrounding the defection of an Iraqi air force pilot, Munir Ra'uf, to Israel. He had reportedly flown over in a new-type air force plane and was met on arrival by a group of US aviation experts, who just "happened" to be there when he landed.

The article in the Iraqi newspaper claimed that Ra'uf's defection was the result of a carefully planned CIA operation. It also linked CIA with several "assassinations" in July 1965. The first case involved Shakir Mahmud Yusuf, one of the best Iraqi air force pilots, shot by an American woman, who was suspected of having received some expert help. The other case involved another Iraqi pilot, whose name was not given, and who was said to have shot himself "accidentally" while reloading his pistol.

Gavrilov's article mentioned that several more Iraqi pilots had died recently under mysterious circumstances and that a bomb had been discovered in an Iraqi air force plane.

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